



[13846/10701]

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
GROUP ART UNIT 3733**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor(s) : LOMBARDO et al.  
Serial No. : 10/676,062  
Filed : October 1, 2003  
For : BONE PLATE ASSEMBLY PROVIDED WITH SCREW  
LOCKING MECHANISMS  
Examiner : James L. Swiger III  
Art Unit : 3733  
Confirmation No. : 7724

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on:

Date: 4/16/07

Signature: *Carly Hoenes*

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116**

S I R:

This paper is filed in response to the Final Office Action dated November 16, 2006 in connection with the above-captioned application. Applicants respectfully petition for a three month extension of time, and authorize payment of the required fee in the accompanying transmittal.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.